BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

ECONOMY

- Ten years after the Devolution Transfer Agreement and Yukon Party government administration, Yukon continues to enjoy one of the strongest economies in Canada:

    - posting nine consecutive years of real GDP growth and exceeding the national growth rate in eight of these years;
    - doubling of the Yukon Government's budget since 2003-2004 with the 2013-2014 Budget being the fifth budget to exceed the $1 billion threshold;
    - increasing the population by 6,000 people to 36,000 and the labour force by 3,000 to 20,000 workers over the course of the last ten years;
    - decreasing the unemployment rate from 9.5% in 2002 to 6.6% today;
    - increasing mineral exploration from less than $10 million in 2002 to a record high of $300 million in 2011 and an estimated $150 million in 2012, the third highest level on record, for a total of $1.3 billion being invested in exploration over the last ten years;
    - increasing mineral production in 2002 from $25 million to $450 million in 2012; and
    - continuing to diversify the Yukon economy by promoting tourism, another economic mainstay, generating more than $200 million a year for Yukon businesses as well as investing in other important sectors such as oil and gas, agriculture, forestry, value-added manufacturing, film and sound, and the IT sector.

- The Yukon economy is becoming less dependent upon government spending with the public sector's contribution decreasing from 39% to 30% while the mining and oil and gas sector has increased to 23% of GDP over the last ten years.

- The Fraser Institute of Mining Companies 2012-2013 recognized Yukon as the eighth leading jurisdiction in the world up from tenth last year.

- There are currently three producing mines in the territory with two new mining operations slated to go into production: Alexco's Lucky Queen and Onek mining properties located in the Keno Hill Silver District.

- Victoria Gold's Eagle Gold Project was recommended to proceed to YESAB on February 13, 2013 with mine construction expected to proceed this summer and ultimately create around four hundred jobs when it goes in operation.

- In 2013-2014, Canada and Yukon are expected to finalize the Faro Mine Remediation Project five-year plan schedule and budget, rather than relying on annual funding and an annual work plan and $20.347 million is being allocated for remediation work this year.

- The Yukon Government, working together with Yukon's Member of Parliament, Yukon's Senator and the Tourism Industry Association, have managed to arrange for guided tours this summer of two of Yukon's major tourist attractions – the S.S. Klondike and Dredge No. 4.

- $479,000 with $253,000 in 2013-2014 to carry out an Archaeological Site Inventory for the placer mining industry.

- $168,000 for the Yukon Paleontology Program's Klondike Goldfields Initiative.

- $345,000 per year for the next three years for the Northern Cultural Expressions Society carving programs.

- $200,000 for the ten-day Northern Scene Festival in Ottawa this spring, showcasing eighty Yukon performing, visual, literary, culinary and fashion artists.

- $75,000 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Society in 2014.

- Major investments continue to be made in Yukon's transportation infrastructure including:
    - $13.5 million under Shakwak projects for pavement overlay on the Haines Road;
    - $4 million under Shakwak projects for permafrost remediation to stabilize the north Alaska Highway and upgrade and asphalt improvements on the Haines Road;
    - $4.35 million for rehabilitation of 10.7 kilometres of existing pavement on sections of the Alaska Highway;
    - $8.5 million for reconstruction of the Campbell Highway from km. 10 to 190;
    - $1.5 million for surface repairs on other sections of the Campbell Highway;
    - $2.805 million for improvements to the Atlin Road;
    - $2 million for the second year of a two year project to reconstruct and resurface the Hot Springs Road;
    - $1.25 million for repairs on the Dempster Highway;

- $1.35 million for improvements to the North Canol Road;
- $870,000 for surfacing and safety improvement for various secondary roads;
- $500,000 for the Resource Access Road Program;
- $200,000 for the Rural Road Upgrading Program;
- $700,000 for winter road to Old Crow;
- $1.88 million for rehabilitation of the bridges at Stewart River, the Yukon River at Carmacks, Haldane and Wagon Creek, and a further $500,000 for rehabilitation design of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge; and
- $2.353 million is being invested in aerodromes Yukon wide.

- While our longer-term goal is to focus on larger scale hydro-electric power and potential electrical grid interties, our near to medium term goal is to focus on the development of the natural gas industry, in particular on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

- Consultations are underway on a draft regulation to oversee gas processing plants in the territory that would apply to LNG electrical generation facilities, including any which may be developed by utilities or mining companies that choose to use LNG to generate electricity instead of diesel.

- Recently signed the Canada-Yukon Growing Forward, a multilateral agreement with the implementation agreement involving programs and budget to follow.

- Signed a thirty-year lease agreement for a sixty-five hectare parcel of land on the Mayo Road to enable the Yukon Agriculture Association to plan a central agriculture facility.

- Developed a strategic plan, the Dawson Forest Resources Management Plan, in collaboration with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council and the regional forest industry.

- Renewed the Champagne and Aishihik Yukon Forest Management Implementation Agreement.

- The Yukon Film and Sound Commission will be attending the Association of Film Commissions International Locations Trade Show in Los Angeles in June to promote Yukon as a location for filming.

- Sending six Yukon music industry businesses to Canadian Music Week in Toronto in March.

- Funding a five-year agreement in the amount of $558,000 per year for the Cold Climate Innovation Centre.

- Funding being provided by CanNor for the Pan-Northern Connectivity: Ensuring Affordable Communications Projects.

ENVIRONMENT

- Because of devolution, Yukon Party governments were the first Yukon governments to be in a position to protect and preserve Yukon's environment and wildlife without direction from Ottawa, and in fact successive Yukon Party governments have done more to protect and preserve Yukon's environment and wildlife than any previous Yukon government.

- Since assuming office in 2002, Yukon party governments have identified six territorial parks and seven habitat protection areas.

- Prior to withdrawing any land for protection within the Peel Watershed Region, Yukon currently has 12.68% of its land protected, second only to British Columbia.

- Currently developing a Water Strategy that will help protect ground water resources, ensure Yukoners have access to safe drinking water, promote the sustainable use of water, and improve the generation and use of water information by water managers.

- Numerous multi-years programs are being carried out by the Yukon government under the Building Canada Plan to improve water and wastewater systems throughout the territory totalling $23.244 million, some of which include:
  - $2.965 million for Faro water and sewer pipe replacement and pump house;
  - $4.191 million for the Haines Junction water reservoir and pump system upgrades;
  - $1 million for water treatment plant construction in Deep Creek;
  - $1 million for community water supply upgrades at Mendenhall; and
  - $1.823 million for Watson Lake water and sewer pipe replacement and wet well.

- $3.519 million for the water and sewer extension project at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

- $1.865 million of Gas Tax Funds to upgrade solid waste management systems and related recycling and composting in unincorporated Yukon communities.

- A further $2 million being made available under the Building Canada Plan for solid waste management system improvements.

- $3.001 million for a new Wildland Fire Management aircraft contract to better protect Yukoners and Yukon communities.

- Remediation work includes:
  - $800,000 for Klondike River Highway Camp;
  - $350,000 for initiation of Phase I Clean-up of the Marwell Tarpit;
  - $30,000 for initial work on Dawson Highway camp;
  - $750,000 for treating contaminates and soils removed from the old shipyards site.

- $500,000 for the second year of four years of funding for climate change projects.

- $1.675 million to construct a new District Office in Watson Lake to house Conservation Officer Services, Fish and Wildfire program and seasonal park staff.

- $219,000 to provide an addition to the Carmacks District Office.

- $780,000 to carry out planning and begin construction of a new campground on Atlin Lake.

BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

- As a consequence of the bids design concept for the new F.H. Collins school coming in at almost $10 million above the government's pre-tender estimate, our government will not be proceeding with the tendered design concept, but instead will use a design concept that has already been constructed successfully and economically in other jurisdictions.

- $1.1 million for Yukon College to purchase a mobile trades training trailer for welding, electrical, millwright and piping training.

- $276,195 for Yukon College to develop a new Primary Care Paramedic Program so Yukon students will no longer have to leave the territory to receive high level emergency medical services training.

- $349,000 for the Department of Education's Rural Strategy to enhance current rural programming and implementation of new initiatives designed to improve programming, address gaps, and improve student achievement outcomes.

- $750,000 to implement a replacement for the Yukon Student Information System (YSIS).

- $200,000 to support the Yukon Literacy Coalition's Family Literacy Centre.

- $75,000 contribution over three years to the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

- Five priority areas of focus have been communicated to the RCMP: reduction of the victimization of children and youth; improving the response to sexualized assault and family violence; addressing community safety issues; building relationships with First Nations and responding to vulnerable populations.

- $3.086 million for the Arrest Process Unit that will be built this year adjacent to the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre as a replacement for RCMP cells.

- $62,600 for a position to support Yukon First Nations community police services including oversight for sixteen RCMP members presently funded under the First Nations Policing Program.

- $12.638 million over three years for the construction of a 34-unit social seniors building in downtown Whitehorse with $7 million being allocated in the 2013-2014 Budget.

- $1.2 million included in the 2013-2014 Budget to complete the $4.5 million Kaushee's Place Second Stage Housing called "Betty's Haven" that will provide ten units of housing for women who are ready to leave the transition home.

- $359,000 for planning a six-unit social seniors' complex for Mayo.

- Yukon Housing Corporation recently announced a new loan program targeted at working Yukoners to assist them with obtaining the down payment required to enter the housing market.

- $25.665 million for Whistle Bend land development which is the largest land development project ever undertaken in Yukon that is envisioned as a neighbourhood for 8,000 residents.

- 4.425 million is being allocated for industrial, residential cottage-recreational and agricultural lots in Carmacks, Dawson City, Mayo, Teslin and Watson Lake.

- $7.262 million is included in the 2013-2014 Budget to initiate the replacement of McDonald Lodge in Dawson City with a single story continuing care facility having a fifteen bed capacity to be built on the property currently occupied by the Health Centre.

- Health and Social Services is providing a $429,000 enhancement of the Homecare program as well as increasing support services to children and adults with disabilities including the following:
  - $50,000 for the Handibus
  - $364,000 to support disabilities day programming and residential services;
  - $200,000 to increase access and equipment for children with disabilities; and
  - provision for an additional speech and language pathologist position at the Child Development Centre.

- The $8.5 million, five-year agreement with the Yukon Medical Association to address on-going challenges with recruiting and retaining family practitioners as well as access to physician services in rural and remote areas.

- $900,000 for program planning for the Sarah Steele Building replacement will include medical detox, a transition unit, youth detox and a youth inpatient or family unit.

- $460,000 to support the invaluable work of various NGO's.

- Women's Directorate has committed $150,000 per year for three years to supporting Aboriginal women's organizations to develop three-year community-based projects addressing the recommendations of the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit 2 (YAWS2)

- $300,000 for the Women's Equality Fund to support eight women's organizations.

- $1.477 million increase for a total of $18.055 million in the Comprehensive Municipal Grant funding.

- $3.405 million for projects to be announced in the 2013-2014 Building Canada Fund Annual Capital Plan.

- $3.668 million for the new Beaver Creek Fire Hall, EMS and Search and Rescue facility.

- $310,000 to purchase two new ambulances.

- $610,000 to purchase two new fire trucks.

- $765,000 for a mobile live fire training trailer that will improve firefighter training for exterior and interior fires.

- $387,000 for volunteer fire departments gear and equipment upgrades.

- $1.71 million investment in the Fire Marshal's office to increase the number of Deputy Fire Marshals, training for volunteer fire fighter, and to continue public awareness campaigns about how to safeguard home and family from carbon monoxide and structural fire.

- $750,000 for finding a permanent engineering solution for winter flood abatement along the Mayo River as well as erosion control in Upper Liard to protect homes on the south side of the river as a result of damages from floods in 2012.

- $130,000 for the relocation of community libraries in Beaver Creek and Carmacks to the schools.

- $1.635 million to support Yukon's sports and recreation organizations.

- Three year renewal of $1.7 million sport bilateral agreement with Canada.

- $6 million appropriation in 2013-2014 for new $7 million Ross River Recreation Centre.

- $250,000 investment in active living programs to implement the Renewed Yukon Active Living Strategy.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Continuing to implement the pan-territorial Northern Vision and will host the next Northern Premiers' Forum this spring.

- Working with the Government of Canada to ensure the Canadian chairmanship of the Arctic Council, which Canada takes over in May, is successful and incorporates northern priorities established by the three territories.

- Hosting of Ministers of Local Governance Conference in Whitehorse this summer.

- Hosting of Operation Nanook 13 in August which will involve a scenario whereby a massive forest fire is threatening Whitehorse to give the Canadian Forces and other participants an opportunity to test and improve our joint capacity for timely and integrated emergency response.

- June 1, 2013, the official Grand Opening of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Da Ku Cultural Centre celebrating the 20th Anniversary of their signing of the Self-Government and Final Land Claims Agreement.

- Legislative and regulatory initiatives include the following:
  - *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*
  - *Employment Standards Act*
  - Land Titles Modernization Project to be used to draft new legislation;
  - Amendments to the *Building Standards Act*, *Fire Prevention Act* and *Electrical Protection Act* related to oil-fired appliance to improve public safety.

- $270,000 increase in the Home Owner's Grant.

- Review of 9-1-1 services to determine feasibility of expanding service.

- Successful implementation of the Good Energy Program.

- $2 million in upgrades for the Yukon Government Main Administration Building to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- $561,000 supports the establishment of a Yukon Government procurement office.

- $7.318 million to improve the Corporate Information Systems and $1.115 million for the Records Program Improvement Initiative.

- French Language Services Directorate established as a separate budget vote.

- $289,000 for three pilot projects related to french language service delivery in the health and social service sector and the development of a four-year plan to achieve consistency with the *Languages Act* and French Language policy.

- $250,000 for the Respectful Workplace Office.

- $350,000 to implement new Disability Management Program.

- Multi-year envelope plan of expenditures include:
  - $6.5 million for Information Technology
  - $10.250 million for Capital Building Maintenance
  - $57 million in 2013-2014 and $135.3 million over the next three years for Transportation Infrastructure
  - $30.790 million in 2013-2014 and $121.280 million over the next three years for Land Development